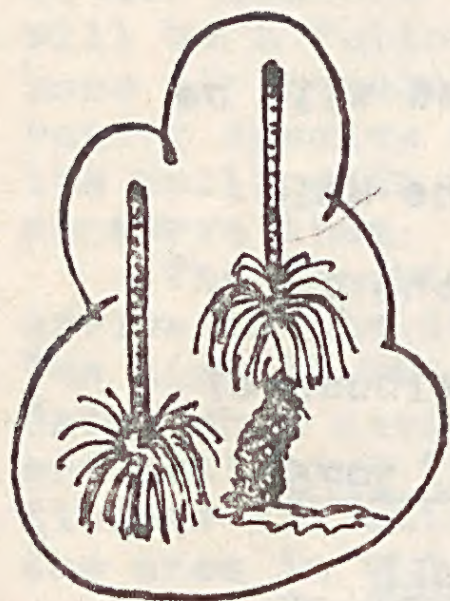


# BALLARAT FIELD NATURALISTS CLUB

## EXCURSION/NEWS SHEET - OCTOBER 1976



President: Mr. G. Birms Ph. 323670  
Secretary: Mrs. M. Rotheram 301671  
Treasurer: Mr. S. Reynolds 327721

FORTHCOMING MEETINGS: Held in the  
Science Building (ground floor) of the  
School of Mines, Lydiard St. Sth. 8 p.m.

1st OCTOBER: Mr. P. Day - Geology Subject

5th NOVEMBER: Mr. P. Prevett - "Genetics  
of Small Mammals"

3rd DECEMBER: Mr. A. Sonsee - Botany

EXCURSIONS: 3rd October - Half day to Durham Lead.  
17th October - Half day to Mt. Beckworth. Leader Mr. A. Sonsee  
7th November - Full day to Mt. Cole. Leader Mr. L. Millar.  
21st November - Camp Cut - Major Mitchell Plateau.  
Cars leave Crockers 9.30 a.m. full day; 1.30 p.m. half day.

SEPTEMBER EXCURSION: Twenty members made the trip to  
Tarnagulla on 12th September, and thoroughly enjoyed the  
bush walk, noting many flowers and shrubs. Among the wattles  
were *Acacia genistifolia*, *A. calamifolia*, *A. difformis*, *A.*  
*aspera*, *A. pycnantha*. The leafless currant bush (*Leptomeria*  
*aphylla*) shone green, flame heath (*Astraloena*) made many  
splashes of brilliant red and the pink boronias (*anemonifolia*)  
were a blaze of colour. Orchids flowering were Pink Fingers  
(*Caladenia carnea*), Blue Wax Lips (*Glossodia major*) and  
Leopard orchid (*Diuris maculata*).

Among the birds seen were green parakeets, Eastern  
Rosellas, Blue winged grass parrots, painted quail, Golden  
whistler, Purple-crowned lorikeets, Tree martins, and many  
white winged choughs.

Of interest was part of a skin shed from a King Brown  
snake. Mr. Bishop showed us the frames of honey comb in his  
beehives, and explained the various aspects of the colony.



## CONSERVATION COUNCIL OF VICTORIA.

### FIELD DAY AT THE YOU YANGS.

The infestations of the noxious African Boneseed will be under attack on November 28th 1976.

Signs leading to the pulling area will be at the Main Entrance from 10 a.m.

Volunteers are invited for all or any part of the day.

Perhaps you could interest a group of people?

Further details from Reg Johnson - 329 5377 (Melbourne)

### W.V.F.N.C.A. WHIPSTICK CAMPOUT: OCTOBER 16/17. 1976.

#### HOSTED BY BENDIGO F.N.C. - VENUE: HUNTLY HALL

(Huntly is approx. 8 miles north of Bendigo on the Echuca Road 'Midland Highway')

Saturday 16th Oct. 9.30 a.m. Depart from Huntly Hall for an informal excursion (optional)  
12 noon. Lunch (Hot tea facilities at Hall)  
1.30 p.m. Depart for Whipstick Forest Park  
6.30 p.m. Meeting conducted by WVFNCA.  
8.15 p.m. History of the Whipstick.  
Sunday 17th Oct. 9.30 a.m. Depart from Hall for Central Whipstick (Mallee) (Whipstick Block)  
12 noon. Lunch (Ruedin's)  
1 p.m. Kamarooka Forest (Mystery Paddocks)  
3 p.m. Nature Table. Aft. Tea. Departure.

See tabled sheet re programme; and caravan parks, motels. etc available at Bendigo.

### TOTAL SOLAR ECLIPSE. 23rd OCTOBER 1976.

Excitement is already being felt about the total eclipse of the Sun on 23rd October, a "once in a lifetime" event, which won't happen again for another 260 years.

The eclipse starts at 4.10 p.m., total eclipse at 4.40 p.m. with a duration of 6 - 7 minutes, and full light again at 5.15 p.m.

What effect is it going to have on the animals and birds? Please send in reports, for interest and comparison.



## SNIFE SURVEY

Fisheries & Wildlife Officer John Clements has appealed to our members for help with a snipe survey. The local survey will be a follow-up to research work done in Japan in the hope of increasing protection of snipe. The birds are a migratory species which breed in Japan. Because of concern about the decline in numbers, Japan is taking steps already to conserve them.

The Department needs to know .. The time at which birds arrive in the district .. The condition of birds on arrival.. The time at which they disperse from migratory groups .. The dates when good hunting conditions prevail (snipe shooters are assisting in the survey).. Unusual weather or water conditions affecting their movement .. A brief description of the area in which they are found.

Mr. Clements said accuracy in observations was most important.

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## SOLAR ECLIPSE: (Contributed)

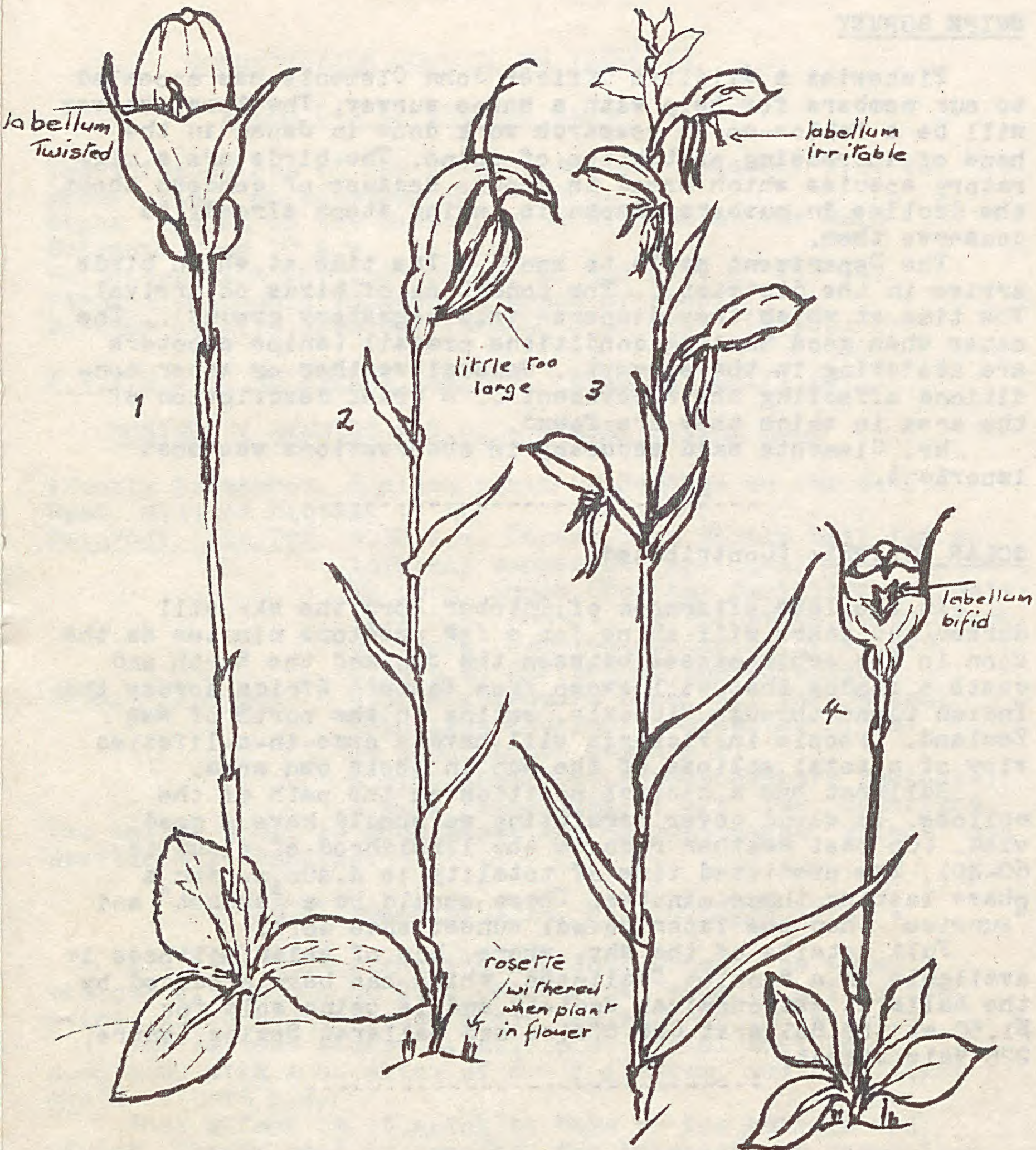
In the late afternoon of October 23rd the sky will darken and stars will shine for a few precious minutes as the Moon in its orbit passes between the Sun and the Earth and casts a shadow that will sweep from Eastern Africa across the Indian Ocean through Victoria, ending in the north of New Zealand. People in Victoria will have a once-in-a-lifetime view of a total eclipse of the sun in their own area.

Ballarat has a central position on the path of the eclipse, so cloud cover permitting we should have a good view. (On past weather records the likelihood of cloud is 60-40). The predicted time of totality is 4.40p.m. for a phase lasting three minutes. There should be a "sunset" and "sunrise" then the later normal sunset once more.

Full details of the why, where, how of solar eclipses is available in a booklet "Eclipses" which has been produced by the Ballarat Astronomical Society and is being sold for \$1.50 at the Ballarat Gas Office and Ballarat Sewing Centre, 225 Mair Street.

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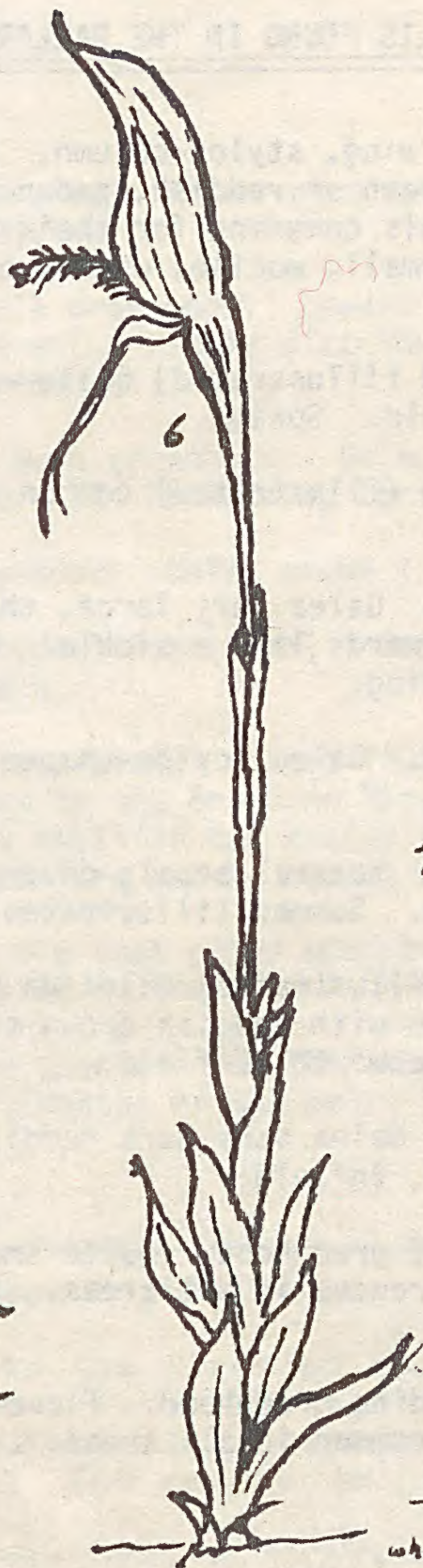
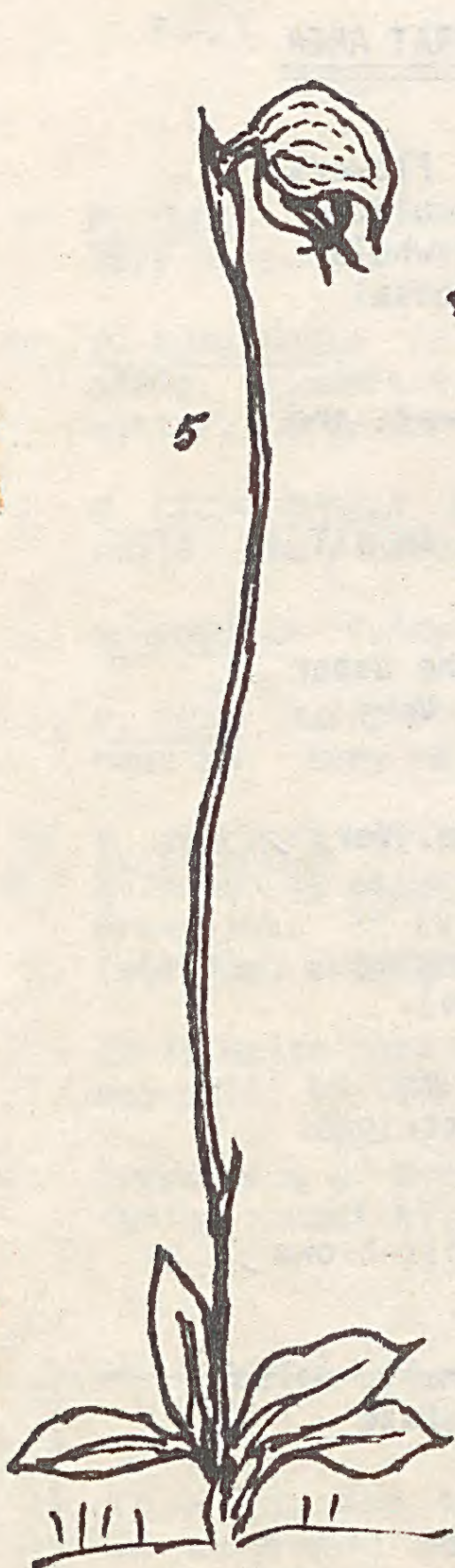






# PTEROSTYLIS

- 1 curta
- 2 alata
- 3 longifolia
- 4 concinna
- 5 nutans
- 6 barbata
- 7 parviflora
- 8 rufa
- 9 nana



rosette withered  
when plant in flower



# Greenhood Orchids

## PTEROSTYLIS FOUND IN THE BALLARAT AREA

Cont.

PTEROSTYLIS Greek: pteron, a wing, stylos-column. Flowers conspicuously hood-shaped, green or reddish, pedunculate, dorsal sepal and lateral petals cohering for their whole length, labellum relatively small, mobile, with a basal appendage.

*blumosa*

— 6 P. BARBATA Bearded greenhood (illustrated) quite rare and isolated. Creswick and Enfield. Spring.

— 7 P. PARVIFLORA Tiny greenhood (illustrated) common in all areas. Autumn.

+ P. FALCATA Sickle greenhood. Galea very large, the upper half curving forward and downwards like a sickle. Very localised and rare. Late Spring.

+ P. REVOLUTA Autumn greenhood. Galea scythe-shaped. Very rare. Autumn.

✓ P. DECURVA Summer greenhood. Lateral sepals diverging widely from galea. Very rare. Summer (illustrated).

2. P. ALATA Striped greenhood (illustrated) Galea up to 2.5 c.m. whitish or grey green with reddish brown stripes. Isolated occurrences. Mt. Beckworth, Enfield.

+ P. PEDUNCULATA Maroon-hood. Galea very dark reddish-brown at apex. Rare. Mt Beckworth, Enfield.

— 9 P. NANA (illustrated) Dwarf greenhood. Quite small. Galea wholly green. Isolated occurrences in all areas. Late winter to spring.

— 5 P. NUTANS (illustrated) Nodding greenhood. Flower conspicuously nodding. Very common in all areas. Late winter to spring.



1. P. CURTA (illustrated) Blunt greenhood. Labellum twisted. Very rare. Mt. Beckworth, Enfield.
3. P. LONGIFOLIA Tall greenhood. Leaves narrow-protruding from stems. Flowers erect. Widely distributed in all areas. Late winter, early spring.
- ✓ P. CYCNOCEPHALA Swan greenhood. Galea quite curved. Flowers small. Very rare. Mt. Beckworth, Spring.
- ~~P. PUSILLA Ruddy-hood. Galea about 1 c.m. long. Very Rare.~~
- ~~2~~ P. RUFA Rusty-hood (illustrated). Smallish flowers, green or reddish. Very rare.
- \* P. CONCINNA (illustrated) is not found in the Ballarat area although it occurs in the Brisbane Ranges, Ararat and the Grampians. It is smallish but easily recognized by the cleft labellum, and therefore *P. nana* cannot be confused with it.

It is quite possible that other greenhoods especially *P. truncata* may still be located in the future in our area.

Greenhoods of one specie or another can be found around Ballarat during almost all months of the year.

#### New Format of News Sheet.

This edition is the first of our 'new look' publication. It is hoped that the booklet form will prove to be more suitable for filing, and that the special articles will be useful for reference.

Editorial Panel: Mrs. E. Gray, Mrs. S. Bedggood,  
Mr. G. Binns.



## Ecological Problems caused by Introduced Species.

While we are mostly involved with the concern of conservation of our immediate or local environment and support causes for the preservation of particular ecological units of natural environment, we tend to overlook our nation wide problems. At the September meeting Mr. Martin Westbrooke, Lecturer in Environmental Science at the Ballarat C.A.E. outlined such problems caused by introduced species.

The fact that practically the entire surface of Australia has been grazed by introduced animals points to the frightening truth that the ecology has been changed in some way in all regions, and continues to be over vast areas. Among the many animals discussed were: Cattle, sheep, horses, goats, pigs, camels, deer, rabbits, hares, buffaloes, rats, mice.

## Club Membership of Ballarat Education Centre.

Following the decision of the September meeting, the Club has become a member of the Ballarat Education Centre Co-Operate Society Ltd. The facilities of the Centre, at 510 Mair St., Ballarat are available to the Club and members are urged to make use of the library and other services of the Centre. The audio visual, reprographic and accommodation facilities should prove to be most beneficial to our activities. Call in and inspect the Centre - the Director, Alan Wheatley, and his staff will explain its functions. Hours: weekdays 9 am. - 5 pm.

## S T O P   P R E S S

## Re Mt. Beckworth Excursion.

As the W.V.F.N.C.A. Whipstick Camp Out on 16/17 October clashes with our proposed excursion to Mt. Beckworth on 17th October, it was decided at the Executive Meeting to hold the Mt. Beckworth excursion on SATURDAY 23rd October instead. This will be a unique opportunity in which field observations can be made of the effect of the solar eclipse. Cars will leave as usual, 1.30 p.m. from Crocker's Corner.